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TUESDAY, MAY 28, 1912.

# MAKE RICHMOND THE FLYLESS TOWN.

Upon the deadly house-fly Richmond is to wage a city-wide campaign. Several cities have practically abolished the fly, and Richmond can do it if the citizens will co-operate in driving out this vile insect which is nevertheless a monster in spreading filth and disease, in causing sickness and misery. The common house-fly is the great destroyer of peace, health and happiness, no matter how insignificant its size. It is not only a disseminator of disease, but is one of the most noxious and loathsome enemies of mankind, lurking in every corner, planting disease germs on bread, on butter, and in the baby's milk bottle. The fly killed more American soldiers in the Spanish-American War than the bullets of the Spaniards.

Realizing the tremendous menace which the fly constitutes to the health of this city, the Citizens Fly-Extermination Association was yesterday formed, and it will proceed to fight this fearful pest in a well-planned and intelligent campaign. The first part of this war will be a swat-the-fly contest, jointly conducted by the City Health Department and The Times-Dispatch. This will be similar to those held in Washington, Cleveland and other cities where the fly-pestilence has been almost destroyed. With the aim of encouraging this laudable movement in the interest of the public health, The Times-Dispatch will offer \$100 in prizes to regularly enrolled pupils of the public schools who will kill the largest number of flies between June 3 and June 17. Sixty-five dollars of this amount will be awarded to white children and \$35 to colored children. The conditions of the contest will be shortly announced, and it is believed that the interest taken will be of immense value in an educational and preventive way.

"Swat the fly" may seem a sort of childish slogan to some, but to those who take the trouble to investigate the menace of the fly it is of vital moment. In State after State the fight is being waged with earnestness and vigor in order that diseases and their sources may be diminished. It has been said that "a fly in the house is as dangerous as a rattlesnake, as filthy as a leech and as disgraceful as a bedbug." The fly is the carrier of pestilence, the distributor of typhoid and tuberculosis, and a thousand grisly horrors follow in its wake.

## A TRADITION.

Senator Lodge, in the heat of debate over the Payne-Aldrich tariff, asserted that the ultimate consumer was a myth. He has lived to discover, however, that the ultimate consumer is a most surprising reality. This so-called myth almost put an end to all utterances of Senator Lodge upon the floor of the Senate. Others were not so fortunate, and the ultimate consumer since Senator Lodge's indiscreet remark has written "Pinke" upon many a well-known political career.

Strange to say, there is another party to the tariff controversy who is a real myth. He is the so-called American wage-earner. He is non-existent, and is rapidly becoming a tradition.

For many years it has been the custom of manufacturers and other advocates of a high tariff to plead for increased duties under the guise of protecting the American wage-earner against the products of the so-called pauper labor of Europe. But recently we have had the Lawrence strike, which disclosed the fact that the operatives of the woolen and worsted goods industry, one of the greatest beneficiaries of the tariff, are Southern and Eastern Europeans and Orientals. Contemporaneously, the Tariff Board sent a report to Congress which corroborated this racial composition of the operating forces of the woolen mills, and significantly added that the same condition of affairs prevails in the cotton mills of New England. Shortly afterwards the United States Bureau of Labor published a report showing that three out of every five iron and steel workers are recent immigrants. At the present time we are being further enlightened by the reports of the United States Immigration Commission, which are being published. This body, after an exhaustive investigation of all branches of manufacturing and mining, states that the American wage-earner, together with the English, Irish, Germans and Scotch, have practically disappeared, and the great majority of our industrial workers are members of half a hundred races of low standards of living from Southern and Eastern Europe and the Orient.

The significance of the situation is therefore clear. We have been having protection for commodities, but free trade for labor. Restrictions have

been placed upon the importation of goods which have enabled the producer in this country to exploit the consumer. At the same time there have been no limitations placed upon our immigrant labor supply. The American wage-earner has had to encounter the direct competition of the so-called pauper labor of Europe. Not only have our industrial workers been unable to demand from the manufacturer any share in the benefits of a protective tariff, but the alien pauper laborers, against whose products the tariff was ostensibly levied, have, by their low standards of living, almost completely displaced the native American workmen. And the wonder of it all is that the manufacturer, knowing these conditions, and being fully aware that he was employing cheap "pauper" labor to take the place of the more highly paid American, has had the audacity to appear before Congress and the public to plead for a high tariff for the benefit of the American wage-earner. In the light of recent disclosures, however, the public cannot be further deceived or the laborer longer betrayed. The sham and hypocrisy which have been practiced in the name of the American wage-earner have been made manifest.

## RICHMOND'S UNIQUE DISTINCTION.

The following extract from a letter written by George B. Utley, secretary of the American Library Association, and published in full elsewhere on this page, points out how the thinking people of the country grant to Richmond a unique distinction.

"For quite a number of years past it has been a well known fact throughout the country that only two important cities were without public libraries—Richmond and Rochester, N. Y. This last year Rochester has taken a long step in the right direction by appropriating money for establishing a circulating library up-to-date, tax-supported library and has cut out one of the best librarians in the country to develop it and bring it into line with the most approved methods of library economy. At the present time, therefore, Rochester remains the only city of any consequence which has the undesirable distinction of being without a public library."

How long does Richmond expect to remain in this unique and unfavorable position? Is there no sting in such official comment that will arouse civic pride? Will this city be content to boast of its bank clearings and building record when all other cities of its rank, not only in the country, but in the South, have surpassed it in supplying a fundamental public necessity?

We commend this letter to the public for careful consideration. It gives the viewpoint of an expert and disinterested outsider. It shows that there is no reason why Richmond should not have a library equal to its size and importance, except the lethargy of the people. Other cities have solved the problems of building, of supporting and of conducting a library. The race question has been answered. The education of our children demands it, the progress and pleasure of every citizen would be furthered by it. Money for less needed civic improvements has been found. Why not for a library?

Richmond must have a library. It can be built either by public funds or by contributions from outsiders. If it cannot be secured in the first way, no false pride and petty sentiment should prevent the acceptance of such assistance as will guarantee its benefits. The question is whether the present generation shall be deprived of the inestimable good of a library in the years when it will do most good, or wait patiently for the realization of a remote possibility. The Times-Dispatch believes that a library is a necessity, and that immediate advantage should be taken of the opportunity to secure it. If the city cannot furnish it, then the interests of the people demand that it be secured as reason dictates. Whatever its source, the fruits of truth and beauty will be untouched.

## INTERVENTION UNNECESSARY.

In light of present information on the conditions in Cuba, the United States is not called on to intervene either for its own interests or for those of Cuba. It is the part of wisdom to have ships and men ready to protect American citizens, and lend the moral weight of our influence to preserving order in the island; but the country is already complicated with the question of Philippine independence and the dealing of justice to our present colonial possessions, and the hasty assumption of new burdens would be most unwise. President Taft is right to assure the Cuban government of the friendly and disinterested nature of our intentions. Until that government has shown its inability to suppress the negro rebellion, the United States has no right to assume the necessity of armed intervention.

At present the labor troubles and sporadic destruction of property do not concern outsiders. The military forces of the Cuban republic are being directed towards crushing out the revolt. While information as to the extent of the danger is vague and incomplete, there is no reason to believe that the existence of the republic is seriously threatened. Here, as in Mexico and other Latin neighbors, American residents are quick to take alarm and eager to seek protection from the home powers. But the apparently unavoidable risks run by these residents do not call for an official action that would sacrifice the policy of noninterference heretofore so admirably preserved with regard to Cuba.

The action of the United States in withdrawing its troops from Cuban soil, and in granting to the people the right to choose their own government and settle their own destinies, has given a commendable example of restraint to other nations. It has won the admiration of foreign powers, and refuted the charge that our interest

in Cuba was selfish and motivated by a desire to exploit its people. It has been a lesson of humane and civilized treatment toward a weaker country. It has had a beneficial effect on European interpretation of the Monroe Doctrine. This country has a surer basis for resisting foreign encroachment upon South American and insular territory if its own policy guarantees a just enforcement of this rule in our own case.

The Monroe Doctrine implies the safeguarding of European interests by this nation in territory wherein it forbids these nations to protect themselves. But conditions in Cuba do not yet demand armed interference on this ground. And the danger that such interference would impair our prestige with the powers, and at the same time entangle us in new colonial problems, is too great to be undertaken hastily and without mature and deliberate consideration of its final outcome. The wish of the American people is to deal with Cuba in a spirit of enlightened justice. At present justice will be satisfied with the protection of life and property.

## CO-OPERATE WITH THE CENSUS-TAKERS.

The home visitation takes place between 3 and 5 this afternoon. Every home is to be visited and a few simple questions asked as to the religious affiliations or non-affiliations of its occupants. The sole purpose of this census is to bring the churches, the Sunday schools and the synagogues into contact with those who may desire to connect themselves with a church or Sunday school or synagogue. All religious faiths and denominations are represented in this inquiry, and it is in the interest of no particular church. The earnest hope of those who are directing the movement is that it may result in bringing the church closer to those who are unconnected with the denominations they belong to or prefer in Richmond. The cause is the religious uplift of the community and the increasing of the forces within it which work for righteousness. Everybody should co-operate heartily with the census-takers, especially those who are missed in the visitation, and at whose homes will be left record cards to be filled out, to be sent in without delay. There is no intention to invade the privacy of any home—the aim is simply to gather information which will be of inestimable service in furthering the cause of religion in Richmond.

## THE RIGHT PLATFORM.

Abolition of the fee system of compensating public officials is slowly but surely being accomplished in North Carolina. County after county is seeing the question agitated. In some counties the Democratic party has caused the system to be abolished; in others the Democratic party has been more thoroughly controlled by the officeholders, and it has been left for the Republican party, which has considerable strength in the State, to demand that the source of such iniquity be abolished. Here is a sample plank in North Carolina:

"We believe our county sheriff, register of deeds, clerk of the Superior Court and county treasurer should be placed upon fair and reasonable salaries, that the fees collected in these offices should be placed in the county treasury, and that after paying out of this money fair and reasonable salaries to these officers, the surplus should be used for the benefit of the people of the county, either for education, good roads or to help relieve us from the heavy burdens of taxation put upon us; that by doing this we will prevent the courthouse ring from using our money to corrupt the politics of our county, as has been done in the past, and for the help of the poor and the use of money that should be used for the benefit of all our people."

That plank tells the whole story, and it is one which should be incorporated in the platform of every candidate for the next General Assembly of Virginia who stands for decent government in the interest of the people.

The Skipwith correspondent of the Chase City Progress writes:

"How pleasant it is these warm, sunny days to ride along the smooth roads and watch the beautiful wild flowers and the green foliage of the trees and listen to the humming of the honey bees and the black jack-powers as they scuttle through the undergrowth. How beautiful to look upon the fields of new-mown hay and drink in the sweet fragrance as we pass along; and all these things bring joy and gladness to the heart of man and make him feel to exclaim, 'The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament sheweth His handiwork.'"

What a happy song of contentment that is!

Moving pictures are being used to present arguments in Congress. This is one way of filling the galleries and cutting down the circulation of that dismal document, the Congressional Record.

The Democrats who had engaged quarters at the burned Baltimore hotel are now camped out on the ruins and save money.

Lordismar has been whitewashed until he is beyond the pale.

When Mrs. Garland gave up millions to marry Mr. Green we are led to think of floral offerings.

The government has decreed that canned vegetables must be mostly vegetables and not juice. Now attention should be directed to giving a little more backbone to oyster stew.

One of the oldest local papers in the Old Dominion, the Northern Neck News, has just celebrated its thirty-fourth anniversary, and it has our sincere congratulations. The News is original and fearless, and is one of the papers that is reached for first out of the weekly pile. It is fighting along right lines in a courageous way, and is a credit to the country it serves.

## On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton

One idea of a Good Time.  
 Beating the microbes out of carpets.  
 Trying to find a full set of shirt buttons.  
 Hearing your friend talk about his cute youngster.  
 Trying to remove a catsup cork with a mallet.  
 Trying to find the leak in a shingle roof.  
 Tying down a mule's tail so he can't swing.  
 Smiling for a photograph without looking idiotic.  
 Waiting outside for your wife to try on shoes.  
 Reading proof on a Russian railroad accident.

The Annual Massacre.  
 Just about this time each spring, the weather does the same old thing. It rises in its frigid might and kills the peaches over night. And the pessimists arise to howl. And the optimists arise to sing. And the climate good, and the outlook's always mighty bad. And each spring is the worst we've had.  
 There's not a pear tree or a plum. That has not been put on the bum. If the thing didn't happen, it would not seem like a disaster. The grape crop's toted to its bier. But still enough of it escapes. To keep us well supplied with grapes. The oldest man cannot recall a single gladsome spring when all the fruit buds were not somewhat chilled.  
 And all the summer's prospects killed. But following this sad refrain, The fruit crop's always born again. For, after the last cold snap, The stubborn thing just won't stay dead.

From the Hickeyville Clarion.  
 Constable Ezra Bibbins has sworn out a warrant for Anne Frisby, our popular and competent banker, because the latter refuses to put a mule in the iron dog out on his front lawn. The constable says the ordinance provides that all dogs shall be muzzled and don't specify whether or anything like a flesh, fowl or iron holds the constable and Anne may have to apply for a change of money.  
 Tummies says he has been reading quite a bit lately about shirt-sleeve diplomacy, but the only thing he heard was tryin' to get his wife to let him cut things in 'em.  
 In a very short time now we shall know whether the man who sold us the grapes sold an honest man or a short and ugly.  
 Hank Tumms's son Willie, who went to Chicago, writes home that he is learning to be a taxidermist. Uncle Ezra Harkins says a taxidermist is a fellow that runs a taxicab, and Hank's would manage to get himself killed somehow.  
 One thing I wonder at is what happened to all of the spring poets during the rest of the year.  
 Miss Fanny Tibbitts has accepted a lucrative position with the Hickeyville Clarion. Miss Tibbitts will write the "Advice to Mothers" column.  
 When they have killed a few more people that was down in Mexico will go to be almost as serious as one of our own Fourth of July celebrations.

## Voice of the People

Richmond Library Situation.  
 To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:  
 Sir,—Being interested in the city public library movement as the most important development of the past few years, I am glad to see that you are making it a subject of your editorial columns. I am glad to see that you are making it a subject of your editorial columns. I am glad to see that you are making it a subject of your editorial columns.

Chicago, Ill., May 21, 1912.  
 Dr. Eugene C. Bingham, Richmond College, Richmond, Va.:  
 Dear Dr. Bingham,—I am in receipt of your letter of May 11, telling me of the library situation in Richmond. I have known for some time past of the efforts of certain citizens of the city to secure a public library, and it is to be earnestly hoped that their efforts will be successful. For quite a number of years past it has been a well-known fact throughout the country that only two important cities were without public libraries—Richmond, Va., and Rochester, N. Y. This last year Rochester has taken a long step in the right direction by appropriating money for establishing a thoroughly up-to-date, tax-supported circulating library and has cut out one of the best librarians in the country to develop it and bring it into line with the most approved methods of library economy. At the present time, therefore, Richmond remains the only city of any consequence which has the undesirable distinction of being without a public library.

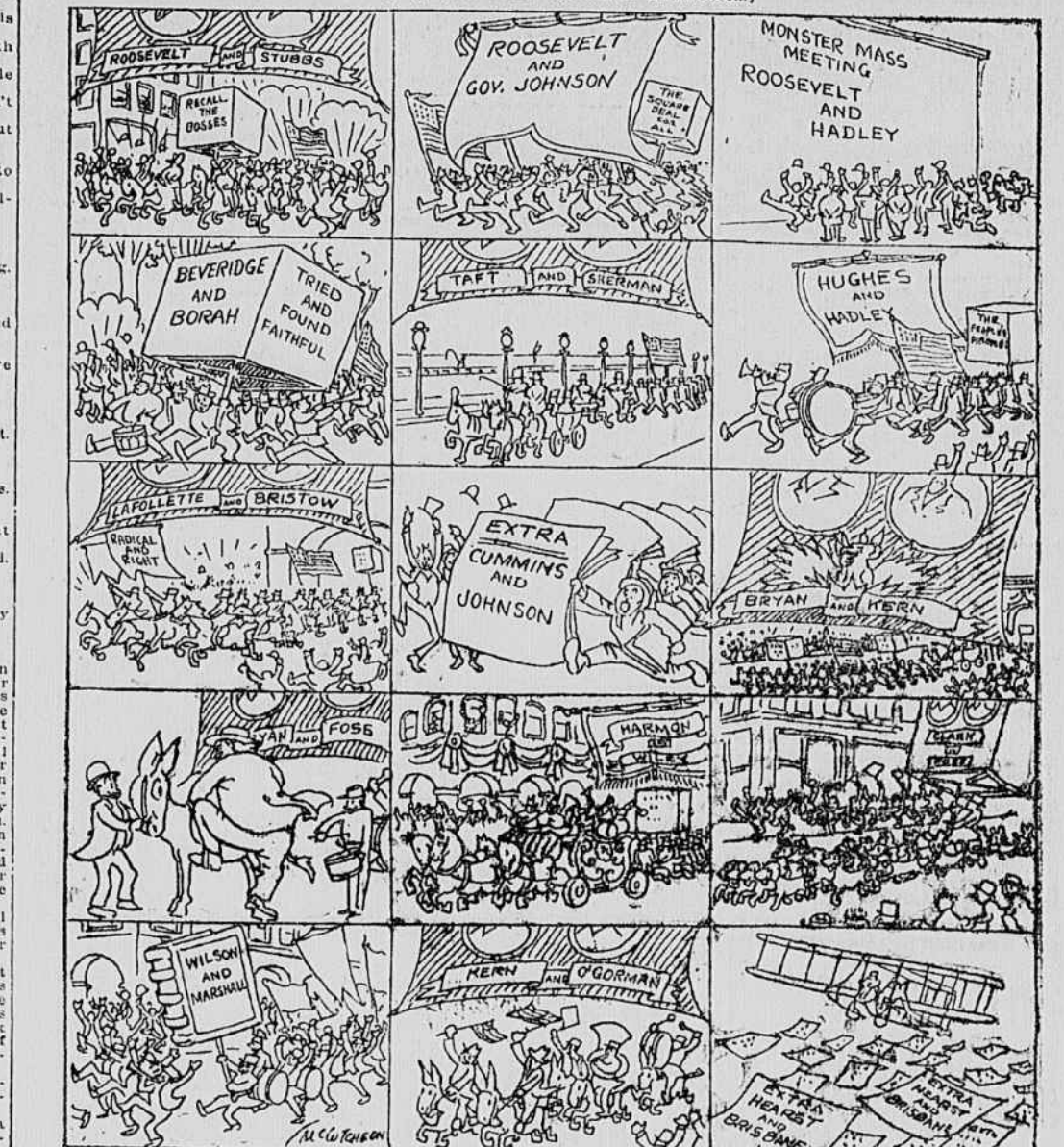
## Abe Martin

To the Dining Room.  
 Pinky Kerr traded his mandolin for a pair of crutches this mornin' and took out a accident policy. A wife ought to be ever' thing over actual operatin' expenses for livin' with th' average husband.

## FOR WHOM WILL WE BE YELLING TWO MONTHS HENCE?

By John T. McCutcheon.

(Copyright, 1912, By John T. McCutcheon.)



As I can learn why Richmond should not own a public library just as much as any other city of equal size in the country, its problems, population, industries and resources are not materially different, so far as I have learned, from Louisville, Nashville, Memphis, Atlanta, Jacksonville and other Southern cities, all of which have found their public library a thoroughly satisfactory and paying investment. When a public library campaign was started some years ago in Jacksonville, Fla., where I was a librarian for some years, there was a feeling on the part of some that the colored people would be an obstacle in the successful administration of the library. This, of course, has been the colored people's problem to every Southern city until they face the problem squarely and then discovered that it was very easy of solution. Jacksonville solved the problem by providing a special room for the colored people. Atlanta solved it by not making any provision for the colored people, and as far as I know the colored people have never demanded entrance into the public library and are willing to wait the same room as the white people. I can use can be afforded for them. Louisville and Galveston have solved the problem by providing a branch library for the colored people. I have lived long enough in the South to realize that it is entirely impossible for the two races to be served in the same room and under the same management. This is absolutely unnecessary, as shown by the experiences of the above-named cities.

I do not know that their self-respect has seriously suffered thereby. The fact that Mr. Carnegie requires a stipulated amount for the maintenance of the library, which in a short time would be the citizens have contributed more to the library than Mr. Carnegie himself, seems to me to add to the argument, sometimes used by our nation's wayward people, that the library will be merely a monument to Mr. Carnegie. Mr. Carnegie seems to have no desire or intention that these libraries should be in any sense monuments to his memory, inasmuch as he makes no stipulation that his name should be attached to them in any way whatever. Those cities which have named their library "The Carnegie Library" have done so entirely of their own free will. Mr. Carnegie never made any such condition. Furthermore, Mr. Carnegie has never made any condition as to admission of the colored people to the library. He leaves each community to solve the race question for itself, as seems best to their local conditions.

There is no question but what the library as an educational institution has come to stay just as firmly as the public schools have become a part of our national civilization. It will only be a question of time before Richmond, whether they will accept it, so to receive the benefits of it in their day, or put it off until another generation has come and made its own advantages can be realized. I sincerely hope that Richmond will not make the mistake of delaying this important step in municipal progress.

Very truly yours,  
 G. B. UTLEY,  
 Secretary.

I remember some time ago reading that Mr. Carnegie made an offer to Richmond of money to build a library building. I have now forgotten just how much money he offered, but it was \$200,000. If this money were accepted from Mr. Carnegie the only condition would be that the colored people take care of it for a year. For a city the size of Richmond, with its prosperous business heart and values, this amount would be absolutely unfelt by the taxpayers of the city. For the average taxpayer it would be less than the price of a book per year. I remember the question of accepting \$50,000 from Mr. Carnegie for a library was put before the voters of Richmond in 1899, and the vote was overwhelmingly against it. So that the vote only carried by a majority of fourteen. Some felt that the city ought not to take on this extra burden of taxation, and others felt that the city ought not to accept money from Mr. Carnegie. After the library had been in operation for two years, however, it had proved itself such an invaluable institution that I doubt if there would have been four votes in the entire city against the library if it had again been put to a vote. Until people have had the privileges of their schools, railways, telegraphs and telephones they do not appreciate their importance, but when they have once been accustomed to them they soon wonder how they ever succeeded in getting on without them. In the same way those who have become accustomed to the advantages a library brings wonder how any community could ever get along without it.

The public library is of particular value in its relation to the educational work of schools. It is a place for me to go into detail regarding the importance of the library to children and to high school and college students. This fact alone is worth more than any city ever expends toward a public library. The library is also of marked value in practical business ways to the business men of any city. An efficient reference department means many dollars saved to the business men who get in the habit of phoning to the library or calling there for information which may save them dollars in their business.

Some cities have objected to accepting money from outside, and sometimes because Mr. Carnegie's methods of acquiring his wealth have been questioned. If a city will build its own library out of its own funds without seeking or accepting outside help there is little question but that the library will be better appreciated and more highly valued by the citizens, but if this cannot be done there seems to be no question but that the library will be better appreciated and more highly valued by the citizens, but if this cannot be done there seems to be no question but that the library will be better appreciated and more highly valued by the citizens.

## FEELING'S HIGH AT MASS-MEETING

Effort Made to Settle Difficulty Growing Out of Work on Roads.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)  
 Tazewell, Va., May 27.—A meeting, attended by several hundred citizens of this county, was held in the court house here this afternoon. The meeting was an open session of the Board of Supervisors of the county, and was called to attempt a settlement of the differences existing between Mr. Daniel, chairman of the Board of Supervisors, and C. A. Wagner, recently appointed county engineer and supervisor of road building in the county. The question of authority was the cause of the trouble. Mr. Wagner recently discharged Rages Stuss, superintendent of one of the road plants of the county, for refusing to obey his orders. Mr. Stuss was said to be operating part of his machinery on the yards, and upon his alleged refusal to operate it differently he was discharged by Mr. Wagner. Mr. Daniels, who appointed Stuss to the position, reinstated him and trouble began, each assuming the authority of the other in the district.

NEGRO TERRIBLY BURNED AND HOME IS DESTROYED  
 (Special to The Times-Dispatch.)  
 Frederick's Hall, Va., May 27.—Ruben Green, a half grown colored boy, was terribly burned here last night by the explosion of a lamp. The boy had gone to bed leaving the lamp burning beside him. He was asleep when the lamp exploded, setting fire to his bed and completely destroying the building. Neighbors rushed to the scene, but nothing could be done to save the burning house. Green was taken to the office of Dr. E. A. Terrell, where his wounds were dressed. He is in a critical condition.

## READY TO CLOSE CONTRACT.

Lynchburg Academy of Music Will Be Reconstructed.  
 (Special to The Times-Dispatch.)  
 Lynchburg, Va., May 27.—The board of directors of the Lynchburg Academy of Music met this afternoon and authorized the building committee to close the contract for the reconstruction of the burned theatre, and this will be done within the next twenty-four hours, the delay being to enable Mr. Wells, the lessee of the playhouse, to confer with the committee before the papers are signed. Mr. Wells is expected here Tuesday or Wednesday for this final conference.

It was stated this afternoon that the bids are low enough to insure the reconstruction of the building within the means of the company, and it is believed the playhouse can be completed for use by September 15.

**NATIONAL STATE AND CITY BANK**  
 RICHMOND, VA.  
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 This bank has assisted many men in building up successful businesses in fact, one of its principal functions is to loan money for the development of enterprises in Richmond and Henrico county.  
 Resources in excess of \$6,500,000.00 enable us to extend every accommodation to patrons consistent with conservatism.  
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